

RECOGNIZING AMY DAVIS AS THE HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Amy Davis upon receiving the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398's Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award for 2010. Ms. Davis' students have truly benefited from her inventive lessons and the passion she exudes for her profession. I am honored to acknowledge her contributions today.

Amy teaches third grade at Kenwood Elementary School in Okaloosa County, Florida. In her six years of teaching she has enthusiastically pursued opportunities to develop lessons that motivate student learning. For instance, Amy was inspired to introduce aviation sciences into her classroom after attending a Teacher Workshop hosted by the Hurlburt Air Force Association. Amy thoughtfully incorporated flight charts into her lessons in order to teach her students how to measure distances and angles. Likewise, Amy enhances her lessons with space-related material inspired by a Space Camp for Teachers she attended in Huntsville, Alabama. Her method of combining tangible materials and advanced concepts in every lesson has greatly promoted student success. Amy has recently received her certification as a Gifted Instructor and is working toward her National Board Certification, with which I wish her the best of luck.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I proudly recognize Amy Davis as the Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her passion for learning truly makes her a great asset to her students and colleagues. Vicki and I wish Amy and her family all the best for the future.

ENERGY JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our brave men and women in the Armed Forces who are returning to our nation in increased numbers to find that their prospects are limited because they have chosen to fight for our security and safety. I would also like to commend the Honorable BOB FILNER in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for his commitment to recognizing the importance of our veterans' military sacrifices and patriotism.

It is our duty as a nation and government to protect those who have so valiantly fought for our freedoms. Our objectives should be to ensure that they are included in the process of growing our economy in the most vital way possible: procuring employment. Not only should we fight for their inclusion but also provide them tools they need to compete in the job market, whether it be psychological counseling for the traumas they experience while in

combat or job training to bolster the unique skill sets they have acquired during their time in the service.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee has embarked on the process of increasing the employment prospects for our veterans through the National Guard Employment Protection Act of 2009 and H.R. 4592, which funds the establishment of a pilot program encouraging veteran employment in energy-related positions. Not only do these pieces of legislation affect veterans but also their families and those that depend on them. The cost of living in this country is on the rise, and important pieces of legislation like the Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2010 would make sure veterans' compensation keeps apace. Our veterans are men and women who have chosen to give up their lives, jobs and seeing their families for the sake of serving and defending our nation. It is unseemly that when they return they face unemployment.

The fact that unemployment is currently at an all-time high has not been lost to our veterans returning home. Instead of being welcomed with open arms by this country, they are faced with the double fear of not finding employment while worrying about how to keep their homes and pay their mortgages. The Veterans' Affairs Committee has sought to remedy this situation by introducing the Helping Heroes Keep their Homes Act of 2009, which aims to stem the tide of veterans losing their homes, and worse, ending up homeless.

At any given time, our nation is faced with 107,000 homeless veterans. While this number is considerably lower than it was a few years ago, any one homeless veteran is one too many. It is a disservice to our veterans for us not to assist them in acquiring permanent homes. The End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2010 seeks to rectify this important issue by increasing the funding available for helping our homeless veterans. I believe that the passage of this legislation would substantially improve the plight of our homeless veterans and potentially place them on the track to having a place to call home. Our veterans deserve the most from us and I am committed to working with Congress to get the job done.

HONORING LOIS JONES

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to public service and political activism, Ms. Lois Jones.

Educated in Kingston, Jamaica, Ms. Jones then made California her home, serving 23 years in the California Legislature. During her tenure, she was a liaison to the African American Community and played an active role in exposing high school and college students to the legislative process through internships. Years later she moved to Florida where she has been involved in a number of issues ranging from small business development to public relations and international trade. She is very active in our community, always engaging with minority groups, religious groups and civic

leaders, and working to help advance their priorities.

For nine years, Ms. Jones served as Jamaican Honorary Consul in California. She was appointed by the Prime Minister of Jamaica and worked on several issues including international trade. Ms. Jones is also a featured writer, frequenting opinion pages in newspapers across the country and expressing her views on community empowerment and public policy issues.

Currently Ms. Jones serves as a member of the City of Homestead Charter Review Committee and is involved in various community organizations including the City of Homestead Education Committee, the City of Homestead Mayor's Youth Council, the State Partnership for School Safety & Security, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the Association of Women Business Owners, to name a few.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Ms. Lois Jones for her invaluable contributions, dedication to and leadership in our community.

ON THE PASSING OF SAM HAMILTON, 15TH DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sam Hamilton, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, who we lost on February 20, 2010. Sam's work was that of a champion—the guardians of our environment are the stewards of what we leave to our descendants and they deserve unending praise. I never knew or needed to ask if Sam was a Democrat, Republican, or Independent because he worked with everyone and was a biologist first. If I can try to sum up his character, I will have to quote the man himself when he said:

My greatest challenge is to help bring conservationists, hunters, anglers, landowners, state and federal agencies, and business people together to help us conserve and enhance what makes America great—our treasured wildlife resources.

His work for conservation and collaboration was driven by sound science, and his affection for the environment was unrivaled. Sam Hamilton devoted his career and over 30 years of his life to service within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, Sam's first involvement with the agency came when he was 15 years old as a member of the Youth Conservation Corps in Mississippi. Near Starkville, Mississippi, where he grew up, Sam learned the importance of managing a wildlife habitat while banding wood ducks and Canadian geese to build waterfowl pens.

In 1991, Sam became the first Fish and Wildlife Service State Administrator in Austin, Texas. While there, Sam held strong in his commitment to protect the golden-cheeked warbler from further endangerment. Years later, Sam went on to work on the restoration of the coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats along the Gulf Coast after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Sam was nominated in June 2009